

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Board of Game Commissioners

OF THE

State of Pennsylvania

INCLUDING A

REPORT OF THE CHIEF GAME PROTECTOR
TO THE COMMISSION

FOR THE

YEAR 1916

HARRISBURG, PA.:

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1917



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GAME COMMISSIONERS

Harrisburg, Pa., January 4th, 1917.

To His Excellency, Martin G. Brumbaugh, Governor of Pennsylvania:

Sir: As required by Act of Assembly, we, the undersigned members of the Board of Game Commissioners of Pennsylvania, herewith make report to you of the work done under our supervision during the year 1916, and of conditions as we find them today, together with the reasons for these conditions, and recommend such additions and alterations in existing Game Laws as to our minds are needed to better conditions and increase the game and wild birds in this State.

The conclusions arrived at and herein reported to you are based upon reports received from many directions in the State, from the report of our Secretary to us, a copy of which is herewith attached for your consideration, and from personal observation. We are satisfied that song and insectivorous birds of various kinds have very perceptibly increased during the year just passed, and feel that because of the growing interest in birds, upon the part of our people in general, a continuous improvement in this direction may well be expected. More is being done today for the protection and preservation of our wild birds than ever before in the history of our State, and this desire to protect and conserve applies to game-birds and game-animals as well as to birds considered valuable because of their life-work.

STATUS OF GAME.

In the matter of game-birds the information coming to us indicates that for some reason, perhaps wet weather last year, neither our turkeys nor grouse nor quail increased as they should have done. Reports from many directions prove beyond question that the majority of game-birds killed this year, especially grouse and turkeys, were old birds, in this way indicating that our stock of these birds must have been sadly reduced, through the hunting season just passed, and brought to a condition from which it will be hard to have them recuperate, unless drastic steps are taken to give additional help, not after a while, but now. We all fully realize that when any species of wild birds becomes reduced beyond

certain reasonable numbers, it is exceedingly hard, because of severe winters and consequent starvation, floods in the springtime, disease, forest fires, their many natural enemies, including wild cats and domestic cats, foxes, rats, coons, weasels, skunks, hawks, owls, snakes, and men with improved fire-arms and other engines of destruction, and with automobiles to aid in quickly passing from one hunting section to another, for our game to exist, much less to increase, and we are satisfied our game-birds especially must be given additional protection, otherwise in a few years they will be exterminated. Still, all we ask in this direction is that sportsmen be fair and reasonable, and just to themselves.

Our Secretary reports that from data in his hands, he is satisfied that rabbits are the only species of small game that has perceptibly increased during the past year. Our turkeys and quail and squirrels have not held their own, and our ruffed grouse are undoubtedly disappearing from many sections of the State, and are sadly reduced everywhere in the Commonwealth.

Under the provisions of the Act of June 25th, 1895, providing for the appointment of a Game Commission, it is made our duty to enforce the Game Laws of this State, to collect data relating to game subjects and to recommend such legislation as in our opinion is necessary to improve conditions. We, therefore, at this time recommend that the open season for game-birds in this State be reduced to one month, and that certain methods of taking game; viz., the hunting of many men in unison, the scattering of turkeys through the use of dogs, and night hunting, be eliminated, and this must be done if our game is to be perpetuated.

GAME SANCTUARIES.

We are moving forward as steadily as is possible in the construction of Sanctuaries for our game, the best method to our minds yet conceived to increase and perpetuate our game. We made special mention of these Preserves, their construction and management, in our Report filed January 6th, 1916, and will not dwell upon the matter here, except to say that we are more than ever satisfied that the Game Sanctuary or Public Game Preserve, as conducted in Pennsylvania, is the solution of the game problem, and we hope to see in the near future at least one of these Sanctuaries established in a majority of the Counties of the Commonwealth.

RESTOCKING THE STATE AND FEEDING GAME.

Our effort to return to the State game conditions as they existed fifty or more years ago is apparently meeting with pronounced success, and the deer placed in our Sanctuaries and elsewhere,

where protection was afforded, in the State, have apparently multiplied and overflowed as we expected, into contiguous territory, to an extent that is most gratifying. Numbers of deer were seen this year in sections of the State in which none have been found for many years.

Our wild turkeys released last year, both in our Sanctuaries and in Counties where these birds have long since been exterminated, but that are at this time closed to the killing of turkeys for a period, are multiplying and promise to become a part of the fauna of that section. The question of a sufficient natural food supply during that time when our State is covered with ice and snow is the most serious condition our turkeys will be compelled to meet, and this problem is one that is increasing as the blight advances and destroys our chestnut timber, among the best, if not the very best source of winter food supply for almost all our wild creatures, including deer. To overcome the loss of the chestnut when the snow is on the ground, we are attempting to supply grain in the sheaf and corn on the ear, cutting off small saplings or bushes above the snow-line and sticking the ear of corn on this, or tying the ear to limbs where the turkeys can reach it. We find that turkeys and grouse and squirrels and even deer soon learn to locate these feeding places and are greatly benefitted thereby. When the ground is bare of snow, our Protectors are directed to furnish and scatter shelled corn and threshed grain of various kinds, especially wheat and buckwheat. We find, too, that through the planting of Kaffir corn and various forms of sorghum, a supply of feed is provided that can be secured in no other way.

By reference to the Report of our Secretary herewith attached, you will note what has been done and is being done along the lines of restocking our State with game of various kinds is set forth in detail, the number and species of birds or animals secured and released, with the number of Ring-neck pheasant eggs secured last year, the number of eggs hatched and the number of birds raised to maturity. We repeat that our effort in this direction is purely experimental, and is an effort to provide hunting to those living in sections of the State where our native birds have been exterminated.

BOUNTY.

By reference to that part of the Report of our Secretary referring to bounties, you will note a most decided decrease of claims for this cause, as compared with the claims made for the same reason under former law. Still, one cannot help but be impressed by the number of claims as presented even at this time. We all know that these

predatory creatures must live; we understand the disposition of each one is to destroy more than is needed to simply exist, and when we consider the number of these predatory animals actually slain last year, with the number that undoubtedly escaped, and remember the power of each one to destroy, the only wonder to us is that we have game or wild birds at all. We believe that while Pennsylvania has the best bounty system of any State in the Union, still, we feel that in the matter of the manner in which claimants are paid there is room for great improvement, and recommend that instead of the long tedious method now required by Law of having our office certify monthly to the Auditor General the names of those claiming bounties, and the Auditor General, as soon as may be after that, drawing his warrant on the State Treasurer for the amount due, and that official still later on forwarding his check to the claimant, altogether invariably delaying payment for at least two months and frequently much longer, that some method be conceived through which the claim can be paid the day it is received in the office of the Game Commission, the proofs of such payment, of course, later on following the provisions of Law and the regulations of the Auditing Department. The adoption of a plan of this kind will not only satisfy claimants, but will in addition save labor in the office of the State Treasurer and make but little more to do in the office of the Game Commission.

WORK OF THE GAME PROTECTORS.

We call attention specially to the work of our officers, both regular and special, in the line of prosecutions for violation of various Acts pertaining to game, these cases during the year totalling seven hundred and twenty-six (726) with but twenty cases lost, some of these not fairly lost, but altogether indicating that care and good judgment has been exercised. Just a passing glance will satisfy almost any one that the enforcement of that Law denying to aliens the right to own or be possessed of a dog, is not the easiest of undertakings; further investigation will demonstrate that while within one year of this date aliens were possessed of thousands of dogs in this Commonwealth, today these people possess but few dogs. The greater part of these animals have been destroyed by the aliens themselves, with but a limited number of prosecutions, and those only in cases where the alien, because of bad advice, thought he was bigger than the Law or could bluff the authorities, again indicating to our minds that good judgment and common sense has been applied to this branch of our work. In our last Report to you, we

dwell upon the effort we made to have aliens understand the requirements of this Law and asked them to destroy their dogs of their own free will, rather than to be forced into a position where their dogs and good dollars besides would be taken from them.

GAME PROTECTORS.

For reasons fully set forth at length in our Report to Your Excellency last year, we feel that our force of Game Protectors should be increased to at least one for each County in the Commonwealth, and recommend that this be done.

Respectfully submitted,

C. B. PENROSE, President,
WM. B. McCaleb,
GEO. D. GIDEON,
JNO. M. PHILLIPS,
HARRY J. DONALDSON, M. D.
J. S. SPEER,
Board of Game Commissioners.

Attest:

JOSEPH KALBFUS,
Secretary.

Harrisburg, Pa., December 1st, 1916.

To the Members of the Board of Game Commissioners of Pennsylvania:

Gentlemen: I herewith submit to you my annual Report, and for the purpose of having same made a matter of public record and put in the hands of sportsmen through printing, I include in this Report various statements made to you in my Report of July, 1916.

Wild birds other than game-birds are undoubtedly increasing everywhere throughout the State; some of these, especially black-birds and robins, to an extent that may cause trouble and complaint in the very near future.

After a careful canvass of game conditions and the feeling of sportsmen in this State, I believe that but few if any changes or alterations in the Game Laws are really needed, except such as may be necessary to shorten seasons, to here and there add a few words that are apparently needed to make the Law effective, and to codify or condense the Game Laws, placing same under one title and striking out repetitions and superfluous language, which action alone would, I am sure, reduce the volume of Game Laws at least one-fourth and render them far more comprehensive than at present. A bill of this character has been prepared and submitted to you and to the sportsmen of the State as a suggestion for consideration.

CONFERENCE OF SPORTSMEN.

As I mentioned in my last annual report and in my mid-summer report, I believed it would be well for the Game Commission to call a Conference of sportsmen at Harrisburg some time before the meeting of the next Legislature, to canvass and if possible agree upon the legislation regarding game protection that may be really presented to the next Legislature. I believed this to be the only method through which an understanding with sportsmen and desired results could be secured. I held that the Game Commission represented all sportsmen of the Commonwealth, organized and unorganized; that you had a right to call sportsmen into Conference and I was sure that if this right was exercised many of the jealousies and misunderstandings of the past would be avoided. In former years, gentlemen belonging to The Philadelphia Fish and Game Protective Association, actuated by the very best of motives,

repeatedly tried to have sportsmen get together and agree on some line of action that might be followed to the benefit of all, with little result, except to demonstrate that this or that Organization, or that individual refused to be led by the body of men calling the Conference. Before the meeting of our last Legislature, those interested in the organization known as The Wild Life League, called a general conference at Harrisburg, with the same conditions existing and the final result that sportsmanship was not represented in united and harmonious action at that session as it should have been. There are many questions that to win must have back of them the united effort of all true conservators. Those interested in the increase and protection of game and wild birds to succeed must stand together, and besides need the help of those interested in Forestry and in Fishing, and vice versa. I believed a call of this kind from the Game Commission might bring these interests together, and under your direction have issued that call for a conference to begin at Harrisburg on the afternoon of the first Thursday of January, 1917.

ATTEMPT TO SECURE GAME.

Because of conditions over which we in Pennsylvania had no control, as for instance, the war in Europe and worse in Mexico, we were not able to secure last winter the game we expected to secure. You have already had the report of Mr. C. E. Brewster, who went from this office to Mexico to secure quail, and I need not dwell upon the happenings in that direction, except to say that while we did not get the quail expected, neither did we spend the money set apart for that purpose, and we have that yet to spend for quail, and have purchased and hope to have delivered this fall in Pennsylvania at least five thousand quail, costing \$15.00 per dozen f. o. b. at Eagle Pass, Texas; transportation to this State will add at least \$2.50 per dozen, making a total cost of \$17.50 per dozen. This price appears extremely excessive, but is the best we can secure; this, together with the fact that quail cannot be secured in any other place and that the supply of these birds in Mexico is limited and cannot possibly last over two or three years at best, and might be cut off entirely by legislation at any moment, leads me to wonder whether it would not be better to close the State to the killing of quail for a period, in the hope that an increase may be secured in this way, rather than to attempt to increase our quail by purchase at exorbitant rates, and then to have two or more dozen of these same birds or their increase killed by one man, who paid \$1.00 for the privilege. Quail appear to have been quite plentiful in some of the southern counties during

the past summer, but are not plentiful in the State taken as a whole, and we are very frequently approached regarding the propriety and necessity of closing the State to the killing of quail for a period.

I recognize the undoubted economic value of these birds, and realize that unless they are given an opportunity to rest and increase, in the near future our quail will be gone; still, I also know from years of investigation and experience that there are but few men of any class, except sportsmen, who look after and care for and feed quail during the times of deep snows, when they must be cared for or perish, and I greatly fear that if the interest of sportsmen is taken from these birds by a closed season, and deep snows fall during that closed season, that will mean the end of the quail. While the quail is a valuable bird on the farm, I know of but few farmers, unless they are also sportsmen, who will hunt the snowed-in coveys and carry feed to them as do sportsmen. I know of no farmers who are willing to contribute to a fund to buy quail for propagating purposes or to help provide feed for starving quail as do sportsmen, and cannot help but look with distrust upon an effort of this kind. If the farmers of the State, those who derive the most value from the life-work of quail, were to take an interest in the welfare of these birds during the winter-time, a closed season would be all right; if they would not take such interest it is all wrong.

We have secured from Mexico and intend to release in the spring-time, for propagating purposes, something over five thousand quail. These birds were purchased from funds contributed by sportsmen through the Resident Hunter's License Law. Not one cent of the money used to buy these birds came from any other source and while it is far from right to permit the extermination of these birds by men, it is equally wrong to place them in position where they will surely starve or be destroyed by vermin, and it is hardly fair to ask the sportsmen to buy the birds and then also feed them for years without the right to hunt for them under restrictions. It, therefore, seems to me that a shorter season for quail and a reduction of the bag limit is the solution of this problem, two weeks for a term of years if necessary.

I am perfectly satisfied that none of our game-birds can stand a longer season than one month, and some of them not that. Quail at this time cannot be secured from any State in this Union, and Mexico is the only place in the known world where these birds can be secured. The question of perpetuating these birds is a serious one and the best methods through which this can be accomplished is not easily to be determined upon.

Turkeys at the time of the opening of the season were reported fairly plentiful, and several thousand of these birds were taken, perhaps as many as last year, the majority by methods that are not sportsmanlike and should be interfered with by legislation. In the first place, wild turkeys are not matured on the 15th of October; they lack both weight and good sense, that comes with a better experience later on. The young come more readily to the call of the older birds than is the case later on, and the meat hunter takes advantage of every point. In one place he watches the young birds go to roost, and crawls carefully under the tree before daylight and either shoots through the use of a search-light or shoots as soon as the turkey can be seen against the sky-line. In some cases he actually sleeps near the roost so that there may be no mistake about his being in position on time. This man gets his turkey, of course, and frequently more too, and he cripples more than he gets. In another place the man with his dog scatters the flock just at dusk of the evening before the open season begins, and then with his turkey call brings the bunch together before it is half light. This man gets his turkey and others besides, if he thinks he can get away with them. He uses a call in violation of Law, and having violated one Law will not hesitate to violate other provisions if opportunity presents. We have reports of the use of pocket search-lights and other devices, all tending to help the destroyer and not the birds. To my mind, if our wild turkeys are to be perpetuated, it is imperative that the open season should be shortened and fixed for a time later in the season, when the majority of the leaves have fallen and the birds are older. I believe that shooting of all game, and especially wild turkeys, should be forbidden before the time fixed by the Almanac for sunrise of any day, or if you choose before a fixed hour, say 7:00 o'clock A. M., and that the use of dogs in hunting turkeys should be prohibited. The use of turkey calls is now forbidden and the practice is nothing like as wide-spread as it was a short time ago. These are only little things, but they mean life or death to the turkeys.

Ruffed grouse have not been taken in numbers expected, for reasons before stated, rainy weather being apparently just as destructive to the young grouse as is the forest fire. I estimate that when all reports are received it will be shown that less than half the number of grouse killed last year will be taken this year, and from almost every direction in the State where grouse are found we are being interrogated regarding the propriety of a State-wide closed season on grouse for at least two years. The grouse, unlike the quail, is a budder; that is, when the State is covered with ice and snow this bird possesses the power to feed and live on buds

found in the tree tops, especially the buds of the birches and poplars and other soft woods, and the apple buds. He can live on pine needles and laurel leaves if driven to it, but should be given grain of various kinds where that is possible, and that is one of the places where a part of our Resident Hunter's License Fund can well be applied. Our Game Protectors and Keepers of Game Preserves are directed to locate in the fall, after the close of the open season and before the snows come, the coveys of grouse and quail and turkeys, and to feed same during the severe weather. When the ground is bare, grain is scattered in fixed places and the birds taught to expect food there; when the ground is covered with snow corn on the cob is stuck on sprouts cut off above the snow line, or is tied to limbs where the birds can get it. We believe that in this way the birds are brought through to Spring much stronger than they otherwise would be, and are ready to propagate their kind earlier than would be possible under simply natural conditions.

Rabbits appear to be everywhere in Pennsylvania, even in the towns and I firmly believe that twice the number of rabbits were killed during the open season just passed than were killed last year. This increase is due, I think, to the better protection accorded these animals than heretofore, through the killing of weasels and other predatory creatures disposed to prey upon rabbits, including homeless dogs and cats, and that provision of law forbidding the sale of rabbits. It is a well-known fact that the female rabbit is more timid than the male and more disposed to live under cover than is the male rabbit. It is a well-known fact that fully eighty per cent of rabbits taken from holes in the ground through the use of ferrets, before driving the rabbits from the fields to the holes, will be female rabbits, while fully the same percentage of these animals killed in the open will be males. The weasel kills the most of its victims in holes in the ground or in stone-piles or in hollow logs, to which places the rabbit flees for safety. The ferret gets in its work in the same place. The dog and house cat destroy both old and young rabbits, especially the young found in the nests, and the market hunter has heretofore cleaned up what he could of the balance, so that had this animal not been wonderfully prolific, there would be but few rabbits left in the State. As it is, I greatly fear that rabbits will increase to a degree that will in the near future make them a menace to agriculture, if not a pest, and for these reasons believe the limit on rabbits should remain as at present and that the open season for these animals should be from the first day of November to the 31st of December, both days inclusive. Rabbit hunting is the poor man's sport, and I believe that fully three-fourth of the hunters of the State are rabbit hunters,

and that the more rabbits we have the less birds will be killed by men. The rabbit is the chief source of food supply for certain predatory creatures that prowl at night, such as the fox, the wild cat, the weasel and the owl, and the more rabbits we have the less will be the danger to our wild birds and domestic poultry. With this idea in mind, we are doing all in our power to supply rabbits for propagating purposes in those counties near our centers of population, from which these animals have been about exterminated. To do this we are buying rabbits alive in counties where they are plentiful and releasing them in counties that need them.

Squirrels were very plentiful in some of the counties where food was found, in other counties they were scarce. These animals are disposed to migrate, following the food supply.

Bear are increasing and like squirrels are to be found in those rough and mountainous parts of the State where the food supply is the most plentiful.

Deer are more plentiful in this State than they have been at any period during my lifetime, and more deer hunters were in the woods during the season just past than for many years, and the kill of legal bucks has been fairly good.

Elk are increasing but not as rapidly as deer, because they have usually but one young at a time, as do cattle, not two or more like deer or sheep.

GAME SANCTUARIES.

Our effort to establish new Game Sanctuaries is progressing. On State lands we are frequently blocked and prevented from securing desired sites for these havens of refuge, for various reasons, among the rest the discovery that in many directions what are known as permanent camping sites have been established on State lands by permission of the Department of Forestry, under the provisions of Law. Under this provision, a party or an individual secures the right to occupy, to the exclusion of others, the lands surrounding certain springs or other desirable locations on State land. We find upon inspection that a camp of this kind has been established, to the benefit of a limited number of people, when we desire to create a Sanctuary for game, to the benefit of all the people, and are compelled to move on. In my opinion this should not be. No hunter or set of hunters should be given the exclusive right to occupy any piece of State lands to the exclusion of other hunters, and no set of men, either hunters or otherwise, should be placed in position where they can interfere with or prevent, any movement upon the part of any State Department or State interest from improving conditions to the benefit of the general public.

In the effort to secure private lands by lease, under the provisions of the Act of April 16th, 1915, we find that the supposed presence of minerals, or oil, or gas, or the desire to cut timber, or to pasture cattle on the desired lands, or the existence of a traveled road, etc., frequently interferes with our plans. Still, in the face of these various hindrances, we feel that we will secure and establish during the present year, all the Sanctuaries of this kind, either on State lands or on private lands, that the moneys at our command will maintain. As you are aware, we now have eighteen of these Preserves established, and hope to add ten or more during the coming year, and have on the wall map in our Harrisburg office, indicators in pink to represent the Preserves now established and indicators in black to represent the site of proposed Preserves, so that you can see at a glance the location of both established and proposed Preserves.

The effort to establish a Sanctuary near New Germantown, Perry County, to be devoted entirely to the attempt to raise quail in a wild state, not in captivity, for distribution in various sections of the State where quail are needed, had to be abandoned because we could not secure leases from those controlling the lands desired. As you are aware, our purpose was to lease the entire head of this valley, to prohibit the shooting of quail absolutely, to place such lands under the care of a special officer, to destroy vermin, to feed the quail during the winter-time, and to test out thoroughly all possibilities in this direction.

We are now working on additional tracts in various sections of the State, especially portions west of the Allegheny Mountains; these several tracts being located as follows: one in Warren County; one in Forest County; one in Clarion County; one in Somerset County; one in Blair County; one in Bedford County; one in Huntingdon County; one in Clearfield County; one in Cumberland County; one in Wyoming County; and one in Susquehanna County. Only three of these tracts, those in Cumberland, Bedford and Huntingdon Counties, are on State land.

The great difficulty, as you know, to secure a tract west of the Alleghenies is coal, oil and gas leases, although we have favorable reports on the majority of these additional tracts, but it may take some months before we can get ready to close up the contract on some of them.

Sportsmen in various parts of the State have been doing all in their power to have Sanctuaries established in their home counties, sections of the State frequently in which the State owns no land. For various reasons, this is not so easily accomplished.

When the Resident Hunter's License Bill was first introduced in the Legislature, many and vigorous protests were filed against the proposition, those objecting saying, "We are satisfied to pay this dollar if the money collected is applied to the purposes declared by the Bill; viz., the protection and propagation and increase of game, to our benefit, but we know this will not be done. Our money will be diverted to other purposes, and we are opposed to the entire proposition." In reply to this all manner of promises were made by those favoring the Bill, that this should not be done; all manner of assurances were given, and because of these promises and assurances many at first disposed to oppose the Bill, accorded it their support, and it became Law. In the face of these declarations, the Act had scarcely been published before certain individuals, who were loudest in their promises, were laying their plans to divert a part of this fund to the purchase of wild land for forestry and recreation and picnic purposes, entirely foreign to the intent of this Act. This proposition met with strenuous opposition from men who had given their word in good faith, and especially by the leaders of the Pennsylvania State Sportsmen and the Wild Life League and members of the Game Commission, all of whom asserted that this proposition was simply the entering wedge, that if permitted, meant the diversion of this entire fund. As a result of this opposition, those advancing this idea permitted it to be in a manner forgotten, or at least not urged in its original form. At the meeting of the United Sportsmen, held in Oil City in July last, a resolution was offered, to my mind, bringing this proposition within both the spirit and the letter of the Law. I was present, but was not permitted to express my views, because, as one of the delegates said, what I would say might influence the action of the delegates upon this measure. The resolution was to the effect that a part of this Resident Hunter's License Fund might well be applied to the purchase of wild lands for Game Preserve purposes. To my mind, this would be a perfectly legitimate use of this money, and one not only in accord with both the spirit and the letter of the Law, but also a benefit to sportsmen to an extent that can be secured in no other way. Under the Law as it now stands, our Department of Forestry is limited to the purchase of land in fee simple, and are not disposed to buy small tracts of land in numerous parts of the State, even where title can be secured in fee simple, because of the expense attending the care of widely separated small holdings. You are well aware that there are many hundreds of thousands of acres of wild land in this State well adapted to the conservation of game, that is underlaid with coal or oil or gas or iron or other minerals, that cannot be purchased in fee simple. The owners would be glad to sell the

surface rights at reasonable figures, especially is this the case west of the Mountains. I know, too, there are many tracts that can be bought outright, but that while large enough for Game Sanctuary purposes, are not of sufficient size to attract the State, and I wonder whether or not it would be a display of good business judgment to secure control of some of this land for Game Preserve purposes only, through the use of a part of the Resident Hunter's License Fund. Under an opinion of the Attorney General, while the Game Commission does not have the right to purchase land, it does have the right to lease land for Preserve purposes, and recommends that a lease for a long term, say one hundred (100) years, at a rental equal to the price charged for the land, will serve all the purposes and supply all the needs that might be secured through an out and out purchase. Under the present Law, at the close of the term provided for by the lease, the land reverts to the owners, both the rental and the lands are gone. Under the long lease system, the State would control the land for a lengthy period, and in the interval might be placed in position to secure a deed, by the payment of a price fixed in the agreement or lease, say one dollar. I am sure you feel that the public Game Sanctuary is the true solution of the game conservation problem, and that at least one Sanctuary of this character should be established in every County of the Commonwealth, where that is possible. I call this matter to your attention.

INCREASE OF GAME IN SANCTUARIES.

There is one condition connected with the creation of these Sanctuaries and the Law as it now stands, that I desire to call to your special attention, and that is the excessive increase of deer, because of the protection accorded by these Preserves in connection with the Law forbidding the killing of female deer. In several sections deer have so increased as to become a serious menace to the interests of farmers and fruit growers in the section in which our Preserves are located. As an illustration, let me say in that part of the State say within twenty miles of the Sanctuary located at Mont Alto, Franklin County, deer have increased in a wonderful way. Bunches of from six to twenty are frequently seen feeding in the open fields during the evenings, Some two hundred and forty-seven (247) bucks were killed in that section last fall; still, deer appear to be everywhere. Orchards and growing crops are seriously injured, in some instances nearly totally destroyed by deer, and this should not be.

To satisfy myself regarding these conditions, two or three months ago I visited the farm of B. C. Myers, near Fayetteville, Franklin County. I found a large number of peach trees either dead or so

badly injured as to be beyond the hope of profitable recovery. Almost every tree in this orchard had been injured more or less, many of them by deer and some by being winter-killed. I saw many dead limbs with the laterals and buds unbroken, so am sure these were not killed by the deer, still, I am also satisfied that the loss sustained because of deer is most material and exists to an extent that would prevent the profitable growing of an orchard in that section, if the deer were permitted to roam at will over these grounds, as they have been in the habit of doing.

On the farm of Peter A. Baker, in Adams County, twelve or fifteen miles from the farm of B. C. Myers, I found a most serious condition in his apple orchard, almost every tree of which had been denuded of leaves and small branches, some of the trees stripped of their bark to an extent that means permanent injury if not death, and all of them seriously injured. This man, Mr. Baker, is a poor man, working hard to make a living for himself and family, but was exceedingly fair. He said, "If I was well off, I would not complain about this matter, although I have been put back at least three years in my effort to grow an orchard, and am out the cost of the trees and my labor in planting same. As it is, I am a poor man and at this time cannot replant my orchard, because I do not have the money needed to buy the trees, unless I get help. I am down and out."

After looking over the orchard of Mr. Baker, we visited the property of A. W. Cole, also in Adams County, and I should judge about fifteen miles from the Baker lands, the three places, that of Myers, Baker and Cole, being located in relation to each other as the three points on a triangle. On the Cole place we found a condition that was hardly believable. I saw row after row of trees, each row containing about fifteen apple trees, that in addition to having last year's growth eaten off, had been rubbed by bucks to an extent that ruined every tree. Some of the trees were already dead because the bark had all been removed; some because of a strip of bark yet remaining were trying to exist; some of these trees were stripped of bark from a point so near the ground that the buck must have placed the top of his head against the ground to have done what was done. These trees I should judge were in their third year after planting, being from an inch to two inches in diameter. Why the deer did this when there were thousands of trees in the woods all around them I cannot understand. Why they mutilated every tree in numerous rows, I do not know, but that they did so injure and destroy these trees, I do know, for I saw the trees with my own eyes. How many bucks were required to do this work, I do not

know, but I do know the work was done, and I do not wonder that the farmers and the fruit growers of that section of our State are angry because of these conditions, for just as I found conditions on these three farms, so to a less degree they exist on every farm near the forests in that section. I say less degree because a greater degree of injury could not be suffered and have even a semblance of the orchard remain. Their growing oats and buckwheat is fed upon from the time it starts until what is left is harvested. Their wheat and rye is tramped during the late fall and early springs, and they are denied even the right to drive these animals out of their fields in a manner that will keep them out, under all of which conditions I feel that my position regarding the shooting of deer with fine shot when caught committing depredations should be sustained.

Dr. Dixon only a few months ago told me that his representatives at Mont Alto had counted forty-six deer feeding in their open fields at one time. Herds of from six to twenty or more are found all through this section, and I repeat that something must be done to relieve this situation; either the farmer and fruit-grower must be paid for loss sustained, or some of the deer must be removed. On the Cole place I saw a beautiful apple orchard planted perhaps fifteen or eighteen years ago, when deer were scarce. The growing of such an orchard in that section today is impossible. I have prepared and placed two deer traps in this section, and hope to catch and remove some of these animals this winter.

I am sure it is not the desire of sportsmen or of the thinking people of this State, that any individual or class of individuals should suffer unreasonable losses to advance the pleasure of some other class, and some positive action must be taken in the near future to either reduce the number of deer in certain parts of the State, or to pay those who may suffer loss because of the presence of unreasonable numbers of deer. It is not fair that the farmer or fruit grower should be compelled to stand idly by and see deer or any other wild animal destroy his property, without the hope of a recompense in some way, and while the Law forbids the shooting of female deer at any time, or the shooting at a male deer except through the use of a gun propelling but one pellet, bullet or ball at such deer, through a single discharge of the gun used, I have held, that the purpose of the Law was to accord to deer a certain protection, so long as they kept in their recognized place in the woods, but was not intended to say that deer should go and come at pleasure, frequently to the serious injury of human beings, and that if my property was being destroyed by deer, I would feel like doing something that would keep deer off my lands, even to putting a load of fine shot into such animals, and have said to complainants that if after they had tried by

fair means to keep deer off their lands, this office would not prosecute if they put a load of fine shot into their hind ends, so long as no serious or fatal injury was inflicted upon the deer. In many sections of the State female deer have increased exceedingly, and because of the Law giving them absolute protection, have apparently come to believe they belong to a privileged class that can do as they please, and they are so acting that in my opinion it will be necessary in the near future, perhaps at the next session of our Legislature, to declare an open season for does for a fixed period, during which some may be killed and others taught their place. I make these statements at this time, so that you can carefully consider the proposition before the meeting of the Legislature for 1917.

AUDIT OF BOUNTY CLAIMS.

We have about closed out audit of bounty claims paid by Counties during 1913 and 1914, and the unheard-of frauds and perjuries and forgeries mentioned in my last report, continue to develop; some of the Counties make claim for the killing of more vermin, weasels, for instance, than I am sure could be found in three or four or more times the same territory, either in this State or elsewhere. Vermin, that if it had existed as claimed would have destroyed every living creature under fifty pounds in weight in the section wherein they were found, and that they must have so destroyed to live. Just think of one man killing three and four and five and even as high as eight weasels day after day for two or three months on the same territory in Pennsylvania. They might just as well have presented claims for a string of elephants killed on the same ground. I have been in the woods more or less all my life, and do not believe I have seen fifty living weasels in all that time. I wonder how many weasels each one of you have seen during your entire life-time. Some years ago we had in our employ as a Game Protector, a gentleman by the name of Hugh Maloy, whose home was in Freeland, Luzerne County, Pa., surrounded by territory upon which as many weasels could be found as upon any other territory in this Nation. Mr. Maloy made a specialty of killing weasels; he trapped and poisoned and killed these animals in various ways, summer and winter, and covered a tract of land at least forty miles in diameter, with the result that in twenty years he killed in the neighborhood of one thousand (1,000) weasels, or an average of fifty weasels for each year. Some of these claims now being examined, show that fifty weasels were killed by one man in one month, and the fact that many of these claims were presented to the Justice on the day they were killed or upon the day afterward, shows that they were not killed far from home, if killed at all, and

I am satisfied many of them were not killed at all, and this idea is confirmed by the fact that under the new system of paying bounties, through which every claimant must present the skin of the animal in question to one of our officers, either in the field or in this office, the number of claims presented does not exceed one-fourth of the claims presented for the same time during 1913 or 1914. From one County that presented claims for \$18,101.00 paid out as bounties during twenty-two months of 1913 and 1914, under the new system presents for thirteen and one-half months of 1915 and 1916, claims aggregatig \$1,340.00, at \$1.00 each; this under the rate fixed by the former Law of \$2.00 per weasel would mean but \$2,680.00, for thirteen and one-half months, as compared with \$18,101.00 paid for two months less than two years in 1913 and 1914. This speaks for itself.

After being asked by the Auditor General to assist in the auditing of these claims, I arranged the claims from several Counties under the name of the Justice, or other person before whom the affidavit was supposed to have been taken, and then detailed a number of our officers, some fourteen in all, to investigate these claims, directing that they travel in pairs, visiting claimants and Justices and witnesses and County Officials and others interested, with a result that is simply appalling.

We found that in many instances no attempt apparently was made to comply with the provisions of the Law. County Officials passed any and everything that was presented, and this in the face of three separate letters from this office suggesting possible fraud, and asking them to be careful. The Law, for instance, provided that an affidavit should be made by the party killing the animal for which a bounty was claimed; that this affidavit should state *where* the animal was killed, so that no bounty should be paid for animals killed outside the Commonwealth.

When the animal was killed, so that the claimant might not present a claim for an animal killed prior to the passage of this Act, when the bounty, if paid at all, was to come from some other fund than that in use at this time.

The Law provided that this affidavit should be made in the presence of a witness, "who should be an elector," with the thought in mind, as I understand it, that many of the electors of the State were tax payers and very likely for this season to be interested in protecting the fund to which they had contributed.

The Law provided that the claimant for bounty should present to the person authorized to take oaths, *the body or the entire pelt of the animal for the killing of which the reward or bounty was claimed*, and that this official *should mutilate the skin presented by cutting off the ears and burning same, and by "splitting the face of the skin*

from between the eyes through the end of the nose," so that the same skin might not be presented more than once. In hundreds of instances none of these provisions were complied with; in hundreds only a part were observed. One Justice admitted to the officers that he had taken no affidavit, had not seen the claimant or the skins and, therefore, had not mutilated any of them. When asked to explain, he said the party claiming the bounty had written him that he had killed certain animals and that he, the Justice, had sent to this man by mail the printed forms for signature, and upon their return had filled out same, writing in the names and number of animals as indicated in the letter. Who got the money on these claims has not been developed, but that some one did get it is evident from the fact that the claims were presented by the County Authorities to the Auditor General for payment.

Many of the claims presented show upon their face that nothing but the scalp and in numerous instances nothing but the ears were presented to the Justice. Experience teaches me that but few men in any walk of life can tell the scalp of a weasel from the scalp of a red squirrel or a rat and that none but the expert of experts can tell the tip of a weasel's ears from the tip of a ferret's or a red squirrel's or a rat's ears, or from pieces of skin taken from the flank of either of these animals and shaped into ears through the use of shears.

Many of these supposed affidavits contained no statement of when or where the animal was killed, these little omissions being filled in by the Justice or some other person, a year and a half or more after the claim had been paid; filled in, too, by people who had no knowledge whatever concerning this important feature. Several of the Justices stated they had filled in these names and dates in the Spring of 1915, at the instance of County Commissioners who had paid the claims in 1913 and 1914. When asked what they knew about the matter, they said, "We know nothing about it, the Commissioner came around in his automobile and told us the papers had been returned from Harrisburg for correction, and that we must correct same by putting in a date that would bring the claim under the provisions of the Act of July 25th, 1913."

Many of the claims were not signed when paid. Many had no witnesses and investigation showed that many of the names introduced as the names of witnesses, "*who was an elector,*" were the names of women and children, *in many instances not present as the statement represented them to have been.* Many of the claims were raised, from one to ten animals being added, to a legal claim for one animal. Some of these claims were changed by the parties claiming to have killed the animals and some as we have affidavits to show, fix the date of killing after the claim for the killing of this same animal had been

paid by the official whose duty it was to pay such claims. Some of the claims were altered by boldly placing one figure over another, while in others one figure was as far as possible erased and the other figure written in. In some cases the figures in one part of the statement were altered, while the corresponding figures in another part of the statement were not changed. In several cases added figures relating to the time when the animal was killed, show that the affidavit was made and the claim was paid a full year before the animal was killed. In one case while the affidavit as originally made called for fifty cents reward for killing one Owl, the claim as certified to the Auditor General, called for \$2.00 reward for killing one weasel. The man who presented the claim says what he killed was an Owl and not a weasel, and that he received but fifty cents (50c.) reward. The Justice before whom the affidavit was made, says the claim as made before him was for one Owl, reward fifty cents (50c.), and that this was the statement in the claim when he, the Justice, presented same in the office of the County Commissioners, and that he having advanced payment to the one who killed the Owl, received fifty cents (50c.), and not \$2.00, from the County Commissioners. The Justice further says that since these investigations have started, a County Official called upon him and asked that the word "Owl" as written in the affidavit, be changed to the word "weasel", which he refused to do. There are many such raised claims—this is only an illustration.

In hundreds of cases every word in both affidavit, including the name of the claimant, and in the certificate, were written by the man who signed as Justice, and we have many written admissions to that effect. In numbers of cases no skin at all was presented, no animal of any kind having been killed, and we have many admissions in writing to that effect.

We have many statements to the effect that while the affidavit and certificate in printed form show that every provision of the Law was complied with, in reality the skins presented were not mutilated, by splitting the face, in this way permitting the presentation of the same skin repeatedly. Many Justices when questioned regarding this phase of the question, admit they did not split the face; some say they did not consider this necessary, and some give other reasons why they neglected to comply with the Law in this respect.

When our officers first started these investigations, they had but little trouble to get answers and statements from parties in interest, regarding any phase of the question under consideration. Unfortunately they were prevented by bad roads and stormy weather from completing their task at one visit. When they went a second time into that same territory, all information was denied, even those who talked before refused to talk again, except to say, "Since the time

you were here before, a County Commissioner called on us and told us not to give you any information. He said we would likely get ourselves into trouble, that by talking we would certainly get the County Commissioners into trouble and would surely cause the County to lose a lot of money, that we as tax-payers would be compelled to make up," and we have several statements to this effect, made in the presence of one or more witnesses. One Justice said, "The claims as made by me were right when they left my hands. Some of them have been altered by some one after that time, and I told the Commissioner when he came and asked me to alter a certain part of my statement, that the writing as I had made it was correct, that I had nothing at all to do with the fraudulent feature of that claim and would not add one letter or one word or figure to the paper for any one." We discover that while the Law provides that when a claim for bounty has been presented in proper form to the County Commissioners of the several Counties of the "Commonwealth, the Commissioners shall issue an order for the amount on the County Treasurer, who shall pay the same," in this way adding an additional safeguard through an inspector in the person of the County Treasurer. Many of these claims we are informed were paid direct from the office of the County Commissioners, who later on received a check from the County Treasurer for the amount paid out, through this procedure denying to the County Treasurer the right clearly intended by those drafting the Act of July 25th, 1913, to have the Treasurer as well as the County Commissioners inspect the claim, and opening the door to fraud through the raising of claims after original and perhaps legal claim had been paid to the original claimants, and we are in possession of indisputable evidence that this has been done frequently.

House cats were passed as wild cats. Even now, under the present system, hardly a week passes but that some one sends in the skin of a domestic cat and asks for payment of the bounty on a wild cat, and as the late Law specifically provides that no one under a heavy penalty shall collect or "attempt to collect a bounty" through the presentation of the skin or part thereof of an animal not named in the Act, or through deception of any character, I have decided to make an example of some of those fraudulently claiming bounty for the killing of domestic cats, and after the close of the game season this year, will direct a number of such prosecutions. Red squirrels and rats and immature animals, some of them having been cut from the bodies of slain females, were presented and paid for under the old system. All this is impossible at this time.

These are but a few of the numerous illustrations of fraudulent practices that have been developed by our investigations, and I be-

lieve justify me in asserting that the conditions as found are appalling, and in addition to say that not one cent of the claim made by any County in which such conditions exist, should be paid without suit and proof conclusive in Court that the claim is just. I am satisfied that many thousands of dollars claimed fraudulently have already been paid to Counties and is lost to the State, but I cannot help that; we cannot uncover everything. We have done our best, considering the other work we have to do, and I have already said to the Attorney General that the Game Commission could not assume the responsibility of prosecuting the many in the State who should be prosecuted for wrong-doing connected with the payment of bounties, that if we were to attempt to do this, the time of every Game Protector within the State would be taken for the next two or more years, to the absolute neglect of our own work. I have said that it was not the duty of this office to protect Counties whose representatives refused or neglected to do what they were expected to do, and thought my whole duty would be done when my investigation had been completed and my reports thereon had been made to the Auditor General. I understand fully that in many Counties, for various reasons, no prosecutions will be brought, but find it physically impossible to do everything, and feel that if the people of Counties are satisfied to lose this money, rather than prosecute those who have defrauded them, or to have surcharged those who because of negligence or carelessness or worse, are responsible for this condition, the question is one for them to decide and not for this office, and will by permission of the Attorney General drop this matter when the claims are fully audited. The extra force we have had for months assisting in this work has already been dispensed with.

PURCHASE OF GAME.

Our effort to secure additional game through purchase, and the propagation of Ring-neck pheasants, is meeting with a fair degree of success. The idea is to produce this game to be killed by sportsmen during the open season of the same year it is produced, because we believe that the Ring-neck pheasant being strictly a ground feeder, cannot live through our severe winters without special care and feeding, and that, therefore, they cannot become a part of the fauna of this State. We hope through this effort to supply some game to sportsmen in sections where at this time no game is found, and to bring that game as near the door of the man who, because of the position he occupies, is not able to spend much money or to waste much time in search of game. We are trying to place game where this man can find it when he has an afternoon off, or on Labor Day. The

necessity for expertness in the use of guns is being demonstrated today as never before in the history of the world, and we are trying through the production of game, to supply an incentive that will make our line of defense the very strongest in time of need.

Last Spring we placed in the hands of sportsmen in various sections of the State, settings of Ring-neck pheasant eggs, and to assist as far as possible in securing the very best results with each clutch of eggs, we sent out a bulletin of instructions regarding the setting of these eggs, the care and feeding of the birds that might be hatched and insisted on a report from each individual receiving eggs, regarding their success or failure in rearing Ring-neck pheasants, and the returns secured are not in accord with the statements frequently made, especially by those who have pheasants or pheasant eggs to sell, that it is just as easy to raise pheasants as it is to raise chickens. The eggs we distributed all came from within this State, so were not shipped long distances. They were carefully packed by experienced hands, yet our reports show that not to exceed fifty per cent of the eggs sent out produced young birds, and not more than ten per cent of the birds actually hatched were reared to maturity, these results again confirming our thought that if pheasants could be produced as easily and as cheaply as chickens, the price of pheasants would not be \$3.00 for a pheasant, as compared with fifty cents or seventy five cents for a chicken.

It is possible that the heavy rains and lengthy wet weather of last Spring had much to do with the mortality of these birds, and with your consent feel that we should repeat this experiment next Spring. I am satisfied that mature Ring-neck pheasants released in desirable locations at the proper time will bring better results than can be secured through the distribution of eggs, and have laid my plans for an effort in both directions next Spring, and have contracted for three thousand (3,000) mature Ring-neck pheasants, to be delivered as soon as possible, some of them this fall, these birds to be held in captivity by our Game Protectors until spring breaks, when they will be released in trios on lands suited to them. Thirteen Counties of the State have been closed to the killing of Ring-neck pheasants for a term of years, and in this way we hope to demonstrate beyond question the possibility of these birds living through out winters in a wild state. For my own satisfaction, I have been experimenting with Ring-neck pheasants during the past summer. I purchased fifty eggs from a man living near Crooked River, New Jersey, and had them sent to a farm in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, where they were placed under special care and set under Rhode Island Red hens. The instructions of the bulletin were observed to the letter, with the result that forty-six of the fifty eggs

were hatched, four of the forty-six chicks died quickly, one after another was lost until but twenty-eight remained, of these eight escaped, and I now have twenty mature birds in captivity, and I hear of the others, one here and one there, now and then; one was shot by a farmer who found it among his chickens. I know of no other person in the State who has met with the same success, but believe that if the same care is exercised by others just as good results can be secured.

I have learned, too, that Ring-neck pheasants will roost on the limbs of trees or on artificial roosts near the ground, if given the opportunity. My birds roost on a prepared roost every night, and not on the ground.

I have learned, too, that these birds fly to their roosting place in the dusk of evening just as quail do, and do not walk to their roosting place, as many supposed, in this way avoiding the possible trailing by night prowlers.

I am more than ever satisfied that the Ring-neck is not a budder, and that they must starve when our lands are covered with ice and snow, unless they are artificially fed and cared for, just as chickens are cared for.

DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Because of the impression that appears to prevail in various parts of the State, that it is the duty of the Game Protectors of this State to kill dogs found running at large, no matter what they may be pursuing, this office is almost daily in receipt of communications from various individuals relative to this matter. This man wants the dogs in his neighborhood killed because they are destroying game; this one wants the dogs killed because they run game at night, and through continuous tonguing disturb his slumbers. The farmer wants the dogs killed in his neighborhood because they are running through his grain or are killing his sheep or are annoying his cattle, and is afraid to kill the dog because he fears the owner of the dog, so that taking all together, we were so annoyed continuously because of such complaints that even though it was not our duty to kill dogs except when caught in pursuit of game, as a matter of self-protection we decided to take the initiative in this respect, and insisted that the several County Commissioners of the State obey the Law requiring them to have dogs assessed and killed where the assessment was not paid, and to that end joined with the Secretary of Agriculture, and secured an opinion from the office of the Attorney General and a promise of help from that office through mandamus if the County Officials failed to act. This opinion was in pamphlet form, and was sent to the Commissioners of every County of the Commonwealth

and to nmerous individuals, with the result that many officials who were negligent were prompted to action, and numerous individuals given to understand the Law and their rights under the Law, took advantage of that right. Thousands of worthless and homeless dogs were destroyed, to the benefit of game as well as of the people engaged in sheep and stock-raising and farmers in general. A new Dog Law is now being considered by the office of the Attorney General and the Agricultural Department.

BOUNTIES PAID UNDER NEW SYSTEM.

You have each one no doubt already received one of the monthly statements (each month) forwarded to your address regarding the payment of bounties under the new system, still, for your information I attach a summary of the year's work in this line, from which you can see the numbers of the various animals sent to this office during the past year from each County of the Commonwealth. By reference to our books relating to this work, one can readily see just who claimed bounties from any part of the State, also where and when the animals were killed, so that when this man or that man sends to this office claims for an unreasonable number of animals for the killing of which a reward or bounty is paid, our suspicions are at once aroused; the case is investigated and it seems to me there is but little, if any, chance to defraud the State. The little chance, if existing at all, must come through the introduction of skins brought into the State, or skins taken from animals raised in captivity, and it seems to me the danger of detection and punishment accompanying such procedure far exceeds any profit that may be secured through it. We believe ours is the very best bounty system and the least expensive of any in the United States, and the beauty of it all is, the entire expense of this work is paid by sportsmen from the fund collected through the Resident Hunter's License Act. No taxpayer of this State, unless he hunts for game protected by the Laws of this Commonwealth, is asked to contribute one cent towards the payment of bounties, or to any other work with which the Game Commission has to do, even the cost of protecting song and insectivorous birds is paid from this fund.

I feel that the Law regulating the payment of bounty claims should be altered so that checks in payment of such claims could be sent direct from the office of the Game Commission, instead of following the long tedious method, with its delays, now in use. I am fully aware that a change of this character will impose far greater duties upon this office, but feel that the benefit to claimants of quick payments will fully justify the additional labor and expenditure, and recommend that this be done.

GAME CONDITIONS.

While it is impossible at this time, because of the recent closing of the open season, to give you accurate or positive figures regarding the quantity of game killed this year in Pennsylvania, we are in position by comparison with the game seen and taken last year to make a fairly accurate estimate of the game produced this year, and the reasons for existing conditions.

As you are aware, the Spring of 1916 was extremely rainy and not suitable at all to the rearing of game-birds of any kind in the open, too much rain being just as destructive to young birds as are forest fires, and because of this condition many of our young birds of various species perished. Numerous coveys of turkeys and grouse and quail reported in the mid-springtime disappeared before summer came, and the reports of sportsmen now coming to the office from many directions show that the proportion of old birds killed this fall as compared with the young birds is far greater than it should be, and especially is this the case with the grouse. Turkeys and grouse and quail, in my opinion, as I have before stated, cannot stand a longer open season than one month, and some of them not that. I certainly believe that to perpetuate these birds, they should be killed only during the month of November, if at all.

DICKINSON CASE.

For your information I desire to say that a few months ago the Superior Court of this State handed down a decision in the case of Commonwealth vs. Dickinson, in which the Court rules that Counties are responsible and must pay the costs in cases where a Game Protector brings suit in good faith, and for any legal reason fails to convict the defendant.

TELEPHONE LINES.

At this time we have fourteen of the eighteen Game Preserves connected by telephone, and have entered into an arrangement with the Department of Forestry, whereby Preserve No. 18, that one in Juniata County, will within the next few months have such connection. We will also connect up the remaining three Preserves already created just as quickly as that is possible, as this telephone service to our Preserves is proving most valuable to our work, and the expenditures made in this direction are surely warranted and useful.

STATEMENT OF GAME PURCHASED.

I attach for your inspection and consideration, statements relative to the game purchased and released in the State during the year just passed. Also statement of game contracted for, and likely to be received during the coming year, with the places from where same will come.

APPROPRIATION AND WARRANTS.

Statement of appropriations made by the last Legislature to our use, with the warrants already drawn upon that fund and the balance due, attached hereto.

RESIDENT LICENSE FUND.

You will find attached a statement of moneys paid into the State Treasury, collected through the Resident Hunter's License from June 1st, 1915, to December 1st, 1916, with the amount of bounties paid from said fund and the balance still remaining in the State Treasury.

PROSECUTIONS.

I also enclose a statement regarding the number of prosecutions brought by our officers both regulars and specials during the past year, and the Acts of Assembly violated. You will notice that out of seven hundred and twenty-six (726) cases prosecuted, we lost but twenty (20) cases, indicating that the officers are following our instructions to refrain from bringing a prosecution until they are not only satisfied that the violation was deliberate and willful, but also that there is reasonable cause to expect a conviction under the evidence in their hands.

SHIPMENT OF GAME.

As I said in my Report for 1915, there is no doubt some hardship imposed by that provision of our Law forbidding the transportation of game by common carrier unless such game is accompanied by the owner thereof, but the wrong done in this respect is but little as compared with the harm made possible through the indiscriminate shipment of game by express and parcels post, both in and out of season, for sale and transportation out of the State, and in excess of the limit as permitted by our Law. Under the old system it was easy for would-be violators to kill their limit in one section of the State, ship it home or elsewhere under cover, then move to another section and repeat the performance. I am satisfied this was done frequently in the Commonwealth, but found it hard to detect or catch the operators. The provision forbidding the shipment of game to a great extent solves the problem, and this feature of our Law should be left as it is.

MEN KILLED AND WOUNDED.

We had one hundred and two (102) men accidentally shot during the past season; of this number thirty (30) were killed. During the season of 1915 there were one hundred and nineteen (119) men shot

and twenty-nine (29) killed. Not one of those either killed or wounded during the season of 1916 were shot in mistake for game; all were accidents, and the great majority were caused by the careless handling of shot-guns.

GAME KILLED.

Although there were more hunters in the field this year than there were last year, reports received indicate that except in the matter of rabbits, not as much game was killed as last year. We had in the field during the season just passed, more than four hundred thousand (400,000) hunters and there were but few of these who did not kill at least two rabbits, the majority killed ten, or more, many of them thirty or forty. I consider that eight rabbits to the hunter is a conservative estimate; at that rate the rabbits killed would be 3,200,000. I believe more than that number were taken; at two pounds each this would mean 6,400,000 pounds, 3,200 tons, of rabbit flesh as a food supply.

Last year we estimated that 600,000 squirrels were killed. I am satisfied that this year the kill did not equal more than half that number, for while squirrels were plentiful in some sections, they were scarce in the majority of our Counties.

About the same number of wild turkeys were killed this year that were taken last year, 4,000.

Not more than half as many ruffed grouse were taken this year as last year, and I doubt whether 200,000 were killed.

Quail in our Southern Counties have been more plentiful than for years, but still a smaller number were killed, because the sportsmen who shoot quail in many parts of the State have refrained from shooting them, in the hope that they may increase and cover the State in numbers as they did some ten or more years ago. Reports received indicate that about 20,000 of these birds were taken this year.

Not to exceed 10,000 woodcock were killed, perhaps 20,000 raccoons and not to exceed 5,000 wild waterfowl were taken.

Last year our reports indicate that in the neighborhood of 2,000 male deer were killed during the season of 1915, and from sixty to a hundred female deer killed illegally. From reports received up to date we are led to believe that a less number of bucks and greater number of does were killed this year than were taken last year. Because of the fact that deer hunters were so successful last year, many men who never saw a deer in the woods went to hunt these animals during the season just closed. Many of them, because of inexperience, shot at and killed does, and I fear that some female deer were killed by men who were narrow minded enough to think they were spiting the Game Commission, rather than their fellow-huntsmen and themselves by such action; still, many of these short-

sighted men are being punished and more will be year after year, as the true sportsmen come to the front to help defend what belongs to them. Without snow it is much harder to locate the dead does and to follow the men who commit these offenses. The Game Protectors as well as the deer and bear hunters have been handicapped greatly this year by the lack of snow.

Some five or more of our elk were killed by criminals, but one of whom has been detected; we hope to land some of the others. Besides this, a wounded elk has been seen in Lycoming County in the neighborhood of the State Game Preserve. This animal has a leg broken, and we may have to kill her later on.

More bear were killed in the State this year than were killed during the season of 1915, when about two hundred and fifty (250) were taken. In some sections these animals are reported to have increased in numbers that threaten trouble, to sheep and bee-keepers especially, and that may lead to difficulties between the owners of these interests, who threaten all kinds of action, and officers whose duty it is to enforce the Game Laws of the State. If an attempt is made to have passed a bill through which damages done by deer are to be paid, I feel that the harm done by bear should also be included.

SUMMARY OF GAME PURCHASED AND DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN DECEMBER 1, 1915, AND NOVEMBER 1, 1916.

ELK, From the Yellowstone National Park,.....	95
DEER, (White-tail),	193
DEER, (English Fallow),	21
WILD TURKEYS,	81
BRONZE TURKEYS, (Half-wild blood),	151
RING-NECK PHEASANTS, (English variety),	461
RING-NECK PHEASANTS, (Chinese variety),	72
RING-NECK PHEASANT EGGS, (See detailed statement below),.....	5,380
QUAIL,	1,011
RABBITS,	2,668

GAME SECURED AND BEING HELD FOR LIBERATION THIS COMING SPRING.

RING-NECK PHEASANTS, (English variety),	360
RING-NECK PHEASANTS, (Chinese variety),	1,203
QUAIL, (Bob-White), from Mexico,	5,904

GAME CONTRACTED FOR TO BE DELIVERED PRIOR TO APRIL 1ST, 1917.

DEER, (White-tail), from Michigan and private Preserves in Pennsylvania,..	300
WILD TURKEYS, from Maryland,	25
TURKEYS, (Wild blood), from Virginia,.....	1,000
RING-NECK PHEASANTS, (English variety), from England,.....	1,000
RING-NECK PHEASANTS, (English variety), from The Blooming Grove Hunting Club,	200
RABBITS, From Kentucky and northern Counties,.....	7,000

All of the above game already liberated was placed in those sections of the State where the same was badly needed, and where the conditions in our opinion were most favorable.

The elk were placed in Game Preserves and other suitable sections, where a large unbroken range is afforded.

The deer secured were released in Game Preserves not stocked prior to that time, and also in Preserves where we already had deer but needed some new blood.

The Ring-neck pheasants, pheasant eggs and quail were placed in the lower Counties of the State, where climatic conditions are more favorable and where ruffed grouse are not found in numbers, and the rabbits were placed in those sections near centers of population, where these animals had been greatly reduced in numbers and needed replenishing. The same policy will govern the releasing of game already secured and yet to be delivered for Spring liberation.

*Data Covering the Hatching and Rearing of Ring-Neck Pheasants,
From Eggs Secured Spring of 1916:*

Game Protector.	Address.	No. Eggs.	No. Hatched.	No. Birds Released.
Jas. H. Carpenter,	Chester,	200	131	14
Warren Fretz,	Bedminster,	200	122	25
J. S. Reinert,	Lansdale,	200	120	37
Norman M. Wood,	Coatesville,	200	143	57
S. A. Keene,	Christiana,	200	90	26
Chas. F. Fenstermaker,	Reading, 239 N. Eleventh St.,	200	113	20
Jas. D. Geary,	Slatington,	200	121	61
F. P. Gemmill,	York, 201 S. Pine St.,	200	113	32
Wm. L. Hach,	Newmanstown,	100	35	6
Chas. S. Laubenstein,	Ashland,	100	45	15
James L. Boyle,	Mauh Chunk,	50	34	3
G. G. Dietrick,	Dorranceton,	50	21	8
Warren F. Simrell,	Hallstead,	100	34	15
Charles L. Braueher,	Hartleton,	50	35	15
Chas. B. Baum,	Harrisburg, 1420 Liberty St.,	100	83	40
J. B. Lightner,	Harrisburg, 61 Peffer St.,	200	136	23
W. C. Bowman,	Lemoyne,	200	97	28
J. J. Slautterbaek,	Lewistown,	200	129	41
Jacob A. Miller,	Fort Loudon,	200	117	28
Jno. W. Bumgardner,	Trough Creek,	100	22	8
Charley Batcheler,	Philipsburg,	50	42	25
Henry Hilton,	Puuxsutawney,	50	37	23
H. E. Hummelbaugh,	Clearfield,	50	33	6
K. B. Rodgers,	Johnstown, 560 Vickroy St.,	100	59	0
Lem. C. Ale,	Bellwood,	100	47	3
H. C. McElwee,	Defiance,	100	64	23
Harvey E. Bittner,	Meyersdale,	100	68	20
Ralph Ross,	McClellandtown, R. F. D. No. 1,	200	79	37
H. R. Armburst, Jr.,	Greensburg, R. F. D. No. 6,	200	114	60
Iddo M. Lewis,	Marchand,	100	43	16
Joseph Kennedy,	Monongahela,	200	93	35
Jas. Sutton, Jr.,	Pittsburgh,	250	120	57
D. M. Slagle,	New Bethlehem, R. F. D. No. 6,	100	49	12
Jos. M. Curti,	Butler, 231 W. Pearl St.,	100	55	0
H. N. Fenstermaker,	Clarion,	50	17	4
Herbert L. Beatty,	Franklin, 611 Liberty St.,	50	28	8
Henry J. Sines,	New Castle, 1511 E. Wash. St.,	200	112	54
Geo. M. Langdon,	Titusville,	100	71	16
R. M. Sawdy,	Erie, 920 Peach St.,	100	34	0
Sportsmen.				
W. W. Long,	Coatesville,	100	60	40
E. E. Clary,	Noxen,	30	11	11
Totals,		5,386	2,978	952

Cost of *5030 Ring-neck pheasant eggs at \$20.00 per hundred,.....		\$996 00
Cost of expressage on 5030 pheasant eggs,		22 85
Cost of 350 Ring-neck pheasant eggs at \$25.00 per hundred,.....		87 50
Cost of expressage on 350 pheasant eggs,		10 00

		\$1,115 35
Number of birds reported reared and released,.....		952
Approximate cost of each bird reared and released,.....		\$1 20

*Fifty (50) of these eggs were furnished free gratis to replace eggs broken in transit.

I regret to say that notwithstanding the careful instructions relative to the setting of pheasant eggs, and the care of the young birds after they were hatched, that we prepared and sent out with every clutch of eggs, it is evident that many of those receiving these eggs paid no attention at all to the instructions and failed even in having the eggs hatch. I personally purchased and had placed under hens, in Bradford County, fifty pheasant eggs. Of these forty-six were hatched and twenty-eight raised to maturity, through a careful observance of the instructions given, and this too in spite of just as wet weather as prevailed anywhere in the State.

Monthly Summary Sheet of Bounty Claims Allowed on Noxious Animals from April 15th, 1915, to November 30th, 1916, Inclusive.

	Wildcat.	Fox.		Mink.	Weasel.	Amount.			
		Gray.	Red.						
April 15th to June 30th, 1915,	10	81	92	38	1,509	\$1,933			
July,	4	85	54	54	1,702	2,038			
August,	2	43	15	29	959	1,116			
September,	5	27	24	21	727	880			
October,	6	65	55	56	969	1,301			
November,	50	186	193	284	1,653	2,995			
December,	174	529	880	992	4,231	9,035			
January, 1916,	221	1,030	1,299	841	5,586	12,411			
February,	144	1,125	1,028	683	4,395	10,268			
March,	109	1,019	845	641	3,118	8,201			
April,	53	433	278	336	2,265	4,311			
May,	14	55	148	39	1,111	1,700			
June,	7	43	97	32	1,309	1,703			
July,	6	43	42	39	1,592	1,837			
August,	4	35	37	45	1,682	1,895			
September,	3	32	23	44	1,182	1,354			
October,	13	51	54	60	1,740	2,058			
November,	37	152	171	611	3,381	4,860			
Total,	862	5,124	5,335	4,845	39,111	\$70,046			

Bounty Claims Allowed on Noxious Animals from April 15th, 1915, to November 30th, 1916, Inclusive, by Counties:

	Wildcat.	Fox.		Mink.	Weasel.	Amount.			
		Gray.	Red.						
Adams, .....	.....	106	8	15	449	692		
Allegheny,	2	23	16	7	236	333			
Armstrong,	1	1	20	49	1,035	1,132			
Beaver, .....	.....	3	32	30	176	276		
Bedford,	18	314	79	101	569	1,564			
Berks, .....	.....	48	38	29	737	938		
Blair,	1	99	74	16	316	68 $\frac{1}{2}$			

*Bounty Claims Allowed on Noxious Animals from April 15th, 1915,
to November 30th, 1916, Inclusive, by Counties—Continued:*

	Wildcat.	Fox.		Mink.	Weasel.	Amount.			
		Gray.	Red.						
Bradford,	13	237	335	267	1,075	2,564			
Bucks,	1	64	13	32	744	936			
Butler, . . . . .	.....	.....	2	80	1,486	1,570	
Cambria,	3	62	78	125	642	1,065			
Cameron,	43	44	45	20	62	518			
Carbon,	7	59	10	36	137	313			
Centre,	32	186	203	61	509	1,540			
Chester, . . . . .	.....	12	27	47	749	874		
Clarion,	11	4	53	119	1,350	1,649			
Clearfield,	35	84	138	131	1,339	2,124			
Clinton,	45	213	87	16	151	1,038			
Columbia,	2	79	57	40	869	1,193			
Crawford,	6	.....	39	194	1,562	1,870		
Cumberland,	2	86	29	5	427	674			
Dauphin,	2	89	31	10	436	698			
Delaware, . . . . .	.....	.....	3	.....	45	51
Elk,	79	25	179	107	414	1,403			
Erie,	2	3	8	181	995	1,210			
Fayette,	1	157	50	95	345	860			
Forest,	27	2	151	156	351	975			
Franklin,	10	138	30	13	351	760			
Fulton,	3	137	27	47	130	523			
Greene, . . . . .	.....	1	16	5	158	197		
Huntingdon,	9	281	106	57	419	1,304			
Indiana,	1	8	35	132	1,176	1,400			
Jefferson,	9	9	78	154	1,244	1,625			
Juniata,	8	99	28	14	324	649			
Lackawanna,	14	88	45	75	333	758			
Lancaster,	1	7	39	18	761	877			
Lawrence, . . . . .	.....	2	15	13	411	458		
Lebanon, . . . . .	.....	19	17	3	211	286		
Lehigh, . . . . .	.....	21	10	12	271	345		
Luzerne,	8	123	72	88	1,100	1,628			
Lycoming,	23	146	176	102	701	1,585			
McKean,	46	30	256	123	951	1,922			
Mercer, . . . . .	.....	.....	3	65	914	985	
Mifflin,	8	131	67	23	285	752			
Monroe,	10	169	118	81	445	1,160			
Montgomery, . . . . .	.....	16	9	4	386	440		
Montour, . . . . .	.....	4	.....	2	226	236	
Northampton,	1	45	19	22	260	416			
Northumberland, . . . . .	.....	26	8	5	397	470		
Perry,	6	169	56	8	583	1,077			
Philadelphia, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	24	24	24
Pike,	39	53	84	110	138	816			
Potter,	155	34	408	187	1,145	3,146			
Schuylkill, . . . . .	.....	167	33	26	595	1,021		
Snyder,	4	28	42	8	533	705			
Somerset,	10	281	135	251	987	2,130			
Sullivan,	31	41	172	61	390	1,063			
Susquehanna, . . . . .	.....	263	161	158	575	1,581		
Tioga,	76	65	430	155	966	2,567			
Union,	5	43	41	27	243	468			
Venango,	2	2	90	132	629	957			
Warren,	34	13	165	228	704	1,492			
Washington,	1	3	22	14	183	253			
Wayne,	9	206	277	239	568	1,827			
Westmoreland, . . . . .	.....	76	61	94	808	1,176		
Wyoming,	6	148	111	111	519	1,184			
York, . . . . .	.....	22	67	9	861	1,048		
Totals,	862	5,124	5,335	4,845	29,111	\$70,046			

You will notice that according to the foregoing statement claims for bounty have been made from every County of the Commonwealth, under the provisions of the new Bounty Law, the Act of April 15th, 1915, the period covered being for nineteen and one-half months in 1915 and 1916. Still the total claim made is for but \$70,046.00 as compared with approximately \$320,000.00 made for the same cause during twenty months and twenty days in 1913 and 1914 under the old Law with four Counties, Philadelphia, Mercer, Pike and Bradford making no claim at all for 1913 and 1914

STATEMENT OF CASES PROSECUTED BY REGULAR AND
SPECIAL GAME PROTECTORS.

DURING YEAR BEGINNING DECEMBER 1ST, 1915, AND ENDING
NOVEMBER 30TH, 1916.

REGULAR GAME PROTECTORS:

Alien gun law and alien dog law,	155
Resident and non-resident license laws,.....	33
Other game laws,	323
	511

SPECIAL GAME PROTECTORS:

Alien gun law and alien dog law,.....	118
Resident and non-resident license laws,	9
Other game laws,	68
	195

Cases successfully prosecuted,.....	706
Cases lost,	20
	726

SUMMARY OF 1913 & 1914 RESIDENT HUNTERS' LICENSE FEES:

Statement of Resident Hunters' license fees, showing receipts, expenditures and balances.

Licenses issued in 1913,	305,028
Licenses issued in 1914,	298,972
Total for the above two years,.....	\$604,000 00
County Treasurers' Fees, 10%,	60,400 00
Net revenue from licenses 1913 & 1914,.....	\$543,600 00
Penalties deposited with this fund,	1,563 11
Grand total licenses fund to June 1st, 1915,.....	\$545,163 11

APPROPRIATIONS BY 1915 LEGISLATURE:

Deficiency appropriation,	+\$25,000 00
Game Commission for two years from June 1st, 1915. (See distribution and balances below),.....	303,200 00
Reimbursing counties 1913 bounty act,.....	*240,320 47
Compilation Game, Fish and Forestry laws,.....	300 00
Total appropriations,	568,820 47
Amount appropriated in excess of receipts above,.....	\$23,657 36

*The total amount claimed by counties under the 1913 Bounty Act was approximately \$320,000.00, but because of the work done by the Game Commission and the office of the Auditor General in eliminating fraudulent bounty claims approximately \$110,000.00 was saved to the Resident Hunters' License Fund, and a balance of approximately \$30,000.00 will remain in this appropriation of \$240,320.47 after all legitimate outstanding claims have been adjusted. This balance together with the balance in the Deficiency Appropriation above will make up the excess appropriations and leave a balance besides, which balance will be available for appropriation to the work of the Game Commission.

†Only \$14,999.70 of this amount was used

DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OF 1915 APPROPRIATION TO BOARD OF GAME COMMISSIONERS:

Appropriation of \$303,200.00 divided as follows:

Salaries of office force,	\$18,200 00
Salaries of fifty game protectors,.....	90,000 00
General expense fund,	100,000 00
Preserve fund,	95,000 00
	<hr/>
Total for two years from June 1st, 1915,.....	\$303,200 00
	<hr/>

STATUS AS OF DEC. 1ST, 1916:

Salaries of office force drawn,	\$12,669 90
Balance,	5,530.10
Salaries of fifty Game Protectors drawn,.....	65,559 82
Balance,	24,440 18

General Expense Fund Disbursements:

General expenses,	\$60,142 37
Salaries to specials, etc.,.....	4,390 80
Attorney fees,	1,182 80
Expressage,	589 90
Money in bank,	10 79
	<hr/>
Total,	66,316 66
Balance,	33,683 34

Preserve Fund Disbursements:

General expenses,	\$14,901 79
Salaries to keepers, etc.,.....	13,436 50
Purchases for preserves direct,.....	5,469 36
Game purchased,	19,662 50
Expressage,	5,475 17
Feeding game,	506 88
Caring for injured game,.....	61 79
Bounties on dogs chasing deer,.....	355 00
Advertising closing of counties,.....	729 09
Money in bank,	938 72
	<hr/>
Total,	61,536 80
Balance,	33,463 20
	<hr/>
	\$303,200 00
	<hr/>

NOTE: Under the terms of the Appropriation Bill the moneys in the General Expense Fund and the Preserve Fund are to be drawn by monthly allowances, and up to December 1st, 1916, the time the above statement was made, eighteen (18) months of the two years have passed.

SUMMARY OF 1915 & 1916 RESIDENT HUNTERS' LICENSE FEES UP TO DECEMBER 1ST, 1916:

Licenses issued in 1915,	262,355
Licenses issued in 1916 (report Dec. 1st),.....	289,756
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Total for the above two years to date,.....	\$552,111 00
County treasurers' fees, 10%,	55,211 10
<hr/>	
Net revenue from licenses 1915 & 1916 to date,.....	\$496,899 90
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BOUNTY FUND: (Set aside and available as soon as paid in):

One-half above net revenue,.....	\$248,449 95
Portion of penalties deposited with this fund as provided by law,	4,615 83
<hr/>	
Total bounty fund to date,.....	\$253,065 78

Disbursements:

Bounties from April 15th, 1915, up to and including Nov. 30th, 1916,	\$70,046 00
Salaries bounty division,	4,240 50
Postage,	2,220 00
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76,506 50	
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Balance in bounty fund,	\$176,559 28
<hr/>	

GAME PROTECTION FUND: (Set aside to be appropriated by Legislature):

One-half above net revenue 1915 & 1916 resident hunters' licenses,	\$248,449 95
Portion of penalties deposited with this fund as provided by law,	11,371 19
<hr/>	
Total in State Treasury for appropriation,.....	\$259,821 14
<hr/>	

NOTE: In addition to the above \$259,821.14 in the State Treasury from License Fees for 1915 and 1916 to date for appropriation by the 1917 Legislature to the use of the Game Commission there will be the unused balance of the 1915 Appropriation to reimburse Counties for bounties paid under the 1913 Bounty Act, the unused balance of any other portion of the 1913 and 1914 License Fees, and such portion of the balance of the Bounty Fund above not needed to pay bounties and running expenses of the Bounty Division prior to the time when 1917 License Fees became available.

In connection with the above statements it will be interesting to note that from June 1st, 1915, to December 1st, 1916, the Game Commission deposited in the State Treasury a total of \$25,045.77 in penalties, license fees, costs, etc., of which amount the Regular Game Protectors collected a total of \$16,273.01.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Third Quarter, December 1st, 1915 to February 29th, 1916.

DR.

To balance from last quarter,	\$3,309 14
To warrants on appropriation,	8,333 34
To penalties and cost collected,.....	5,007 51
To proceeds of guns sold,.....	18 50
To proceeds of taxidermy licenses,.....	41 00
To proceeds of ferret licenses (owners),.....	29 00
To proceeds of propagating licenses,.....	10 00
To proceeds of ordinary license,	1 00

\$16,749 49

CR.

By deposits in State Treasury,	\$5,094 51
By expenses during quarter,	11,298 47

16,393 08

Balance,	\$356 41
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Fourth Quarter, March 1st, 1916 to May 31st, 1916.

DR.

To balance from last quarter,	\$356 41
To warrants on appropriation,	10,050 00
To penalties and costs collected,.....	2,337 69
To proceeds of guns sold,	30 10
To proceeds of taxidermy licenses,	20 00
To proceeds of ferret licenses (owners),	11 00
To proceeds of propagating licenses,	25 00
To proceeds of ordinary licenses,	4 00
To proceeds of special licenses,.....	2 00

\$12,836 20

CR.

By expenses during quarter,	\$9,517 47
By deposits in State Treasury,	2,442 29

11,959 76

Balance,	\$856 44
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Quarter, June 1st to August 31st, 1916.

DR.

To balance from last quarter,	\$856 44
To warrants on appropriation,	9,500 00
To penalties and costs, collected,	3,869 19
To proceeds of guns sold,.....	50 00
To proceeds of taxidermy licenses,	11 00
To proceeds of propagating licenses,	11 00
To proceeds of special licenses,	2 00
To proceeds of ordinary license,	1 00
To proceeds of ferret licenses (owners),	4 00
To proceeds of ferret license (dealer),	25 00

\$14,329 63

CR.

By deposits in State Treasury,	\$3,973 19
By expenses during quarter,	9,686 00
	13,659 19
Balance,	\$670 44

Quarter, September 1st to November 30th, 1916.

DR.

To balance from last quarter,	\$670 44
To warrants on appropriation,	15,000 00
To penalties and costs collected,	6,223 58
To proceeds of guns sold,	91 00
To proceeds of taxidermy licenses,	50 00
To proceeds of propagating licenses,	12 00
To proceeds of ferret licenses (owners),	25 00
	\$22,072 02
CR.	
By deposits in State Treasury,	\$6,401 58
By expenses during quarter,	11,526 67
	17,928 25
Balance (Dec. 1st, 1916),	\$4,143 77

PRESERVE FUND.

Quarter, December 1st, 1915 to February 29th, 1916.

DR.

To balance from last quarter,	\$1,845 70
To warrants on appropriation,	7,916 66
	\$9,762 36
CR.	
By expenses during quarter,	\$8,542 60
	8,542 60
Balance,	\$1,219 76

Quarter, March 1st to May 31st, 1916.

DR.

To balance from last quarter,	\$1,219 76
To warrants on appropriation,	5,458 35
To refund of expenses advanced for C. E. Brewster's Mexican trip,	500 00
Refund of one-third of expenses of installing 'phone on Carbon Co. preserve,	55 05
	\$7,233 16

CR.

By expenses during quarter,	\$5,424 18
	5,424 18
Balance,	\$1,808 98

Quarter, June 1st to August 31st, 1916.

DR.

To balance from last quarter,	\$1,808 98
To warrants on appropriation,	2,500 00
	—————
	\$4,308 98

CR.

By expenses during quarter,	\$4,004 43
	—————
	4,004 43
	—————

Balance,	\$304 55
	—————

Quarter, September 1st to November 30th, 1916.

DR.

To balance from last quarter,.....	\$304 55
To warrants on appropriation,	7,000 00
	—————
	\$7,304 55

CR.

By expenses during quarter,	\$6,129 97
	—————
	\$6,129 97
	—————

Balance (Dec. 1st, 1916),	\$1,174 58
	—————

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH KALBFUS,
Secretary Board of Game Commissioners.